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Inman Quits as House Panel Adviser

United Press International

Retired Adm. Bobby Ray Inman, one of America's top intelligence officers, said yesterday he had resigned as consultant to the House Intelligence Committee because it was politically partisan.

Inman, 51, who retired in April as deputy director of the CIA after serving as director of the supersecret National Security Agency and as deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, had agreed to serve as a nonsalaried consultant.

He told United Press International he had resigned because he was not consulted on a "seriously flawed" subcommittee report distributed

Sept. 22 that was critical of U.S. intelligence performance in Central America.

The subcommittee on oversight and evaluation was chaired by Rep. Charles Rose (D-N.C.).

"They didn't ask my views," Inman said.

Inman said that congressional oversight of the intelligence community "has to be bipartisan" and that the subcommittee's report, with emphasis on El Salvador, was "put out on party lines."

Inman said he announced his resignation Saturday, addressing the eighth annual convention of the Association of Former Intelligence Of-

ficers at a hotel in Springfield. Oversight of the intelligence agencies by the House and Senate intelligence committees, Inman said, has to be nonpolitical if it is to earn public credibility.

To avoid leaks, he said, "None of the staff should have any personal relations with the media. If this country doesn't establish a bipartisan approach to intelligence, we are not going to face the problems of the next 50 years."

Inman is highly regarded in the intelligence community, retiring as a four-star admiral. "Nobody can touch him," said one intelligence veteran. "He's tops."